

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PROAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OGEN, HU

SUBJ: FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

REF: BUDAPEST 1011

1. OFFICIAL JULY 4 RECEPTION (HELD ON 5TH) WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL ATTENDED BY TOP HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND CULTURAL LEADERS, AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC CORPS. IN FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY, GOH WAS REPRESENTED BY A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER -- GYULA SZEKER. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE LAJOS FALUVEGI, STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOZSEF MARJAI, AND STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE (AND ACTING MINISTER IN BIRO'S ABSENCE) BELA SZALAI. UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ECONOMIC OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT. DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INCLUDING EE CHIEFS, TURNED OUT IN MASS, AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR PAVLOV MADE RARE APPEARANCE AT U.S. FUNCTION. ALTHOUGH CHINESE DID NOT SHOW UP, THEY MADE POINT OF CONGRATULATING CHARGE ON 200TH ANNIVERSARY AT VENEZUELAN RECEPTION HELD LATER

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THAT EVENING.

2. RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 375 WITH UNUSUALLY LOW NUMBER OF REGRETS. FESTIVITIES WERE ENHANCED BY PERFORMANCE OF U.S. ARMY WOODWIND QUINTET, FLOWN TO BUDAPEST FROM STUTTGART BY U.S. AIR FORCE. GROUP ALSO PLAYED AT JULY 4 PICNIC AT AMERICAN CLUB FOR ALL U.S. CITIZENS RESIDENT IN HUNGARY. PICNIC PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS HERE TO SOCIALIZE, WATCH EMBASSY MARINE DETACHMENT PRESENT COLORS, AND HEAR CHARGE READ PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON 200TH ANNIVERSARY.

3. HUNGARIAN NEWS MEDIA GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO BICENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES. PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG RAN WEEK-LONG SERIES ON AMERICAN REVOLUTION WHICH WAS MODERATE IN TONE, CONSIDERING OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION THAT 1776 REPRESENTED START OF "INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT" AND NOT LEGITIMATE "REVOLUTION". SOMEWHAT COINCIDENTALLY, THERE WAS LONG, REASONABLY FACTUAL AND BALANCED TV PROGRAM JULY 2 ON SITUATION OF HUNGARIANS WHO EMIGRATED TO U.S. JULY 7 MAGYAR NEMZET HAD ARTICLE ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.S. ON PART OF HUNGARIAN EMIGRANTS. ONLY NASTY, COLD-WARISH ARTICLE ON BICENTENNIAL APPEARED IN HUNGARIAN MILITARY WEEKLY NEPHADSEREG ON JULY 3. ARTICLE, HOWEVER, WAS MORE NOTEWORTHY FOR BEING OUT OF STEP WITH REST OF MEDIA.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOH MADE SPECIAL EFFORT ON BICENTENNIAL TO LET US KNOW THAT BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS EXISTS, IN PART DUE TO IMPROVED EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND SUCCESSFUL SZEKER VISIT. WE CLEARLY HAVE IMPRESSION LEADERSHIP WISHES TO STEP UP PACE OF NORMALIZATION, A POINT underscored by DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SZEKER DURING DINNER PARTY JUNE 30 AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE, ATTENDED ON HUNGARIAN SIDE BY ALL MEMBERS OF HIS WASHINGTON PARTY AND THEIR WIVES.

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